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Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by African Cultural Promotions Inc, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

African Cultural Promotions Inc.(ACPI) an organization dedicated to advancement, through promotion of cultural exchange, of communal habitation in creating social respect and understanding between people and the work of the government. ACPI encourages cultural exchange programs to achieve the goal of meaningful commitment; develops programs specifically tailored to the affective, social needs and interests of the prevailing government initiative for the community. Additionally, ACPI fosters advocacy and dialogue between and among ethnic cultures in the community, creating dynamic and robust networks of individuals across disciplines living in communities.

ACPI welcomes the fifty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development and considered its priority theme, "Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies" as very relevant to the concerns of the world's populations relating to social inclusion, particularly with respect to culture and sustainable living.

Since its formation, ACPI has promoted issues concerning culture and sustainable communal living, and has significantly facilitated initiatives and campaigns on:

- Integrating culture into good governance as a means of better resource management and job creation for community dwellers, and has collaborated with community stakeholders including cultural organizations to advocate for policies that could help promote culture for positive economic growth and successes;

ACPI sees culture as a panacea for addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion and protection, which are critical drivers and important measures of fiscal, wage and social protection policies. Culture is essential for bringing about the economic, policies and reserves needed to address such challenges. It is also critical to address economic opportunities of the community dwellers that are poor, and to promote fiscal and wages needed for sustainable living. Poor community dwellers have the right to the social gains needed to exert influence over policies for social protection and political, economic and social inclusion, as well as to participate in processes that determine sustainable livelihood opportunities in communities. Sustainable social inclusion requires a culture of people which strengthens community dwellers and provides them with social enablement to address challenges relating to fiscal and wages issues in ascribing to be beneficiaries of social and economic growth.

From the time of the preparatory process for the post 2015 Agenda, to the adoption of the seventeen global goals, to the present, culture has been looked at as the bedrock of sustainability and for addressing differences across communities and nations. Culture creates opportunities to address social vices such as poverty, hunger, and other social issues that impinge on our human existence and development. Culture has been noted to address protection polices, values and norms that can keep communities and individuals safe and secure.

Evidence shows that culture performs better in social inclusion and positively when concerns on positive and sustainable existence of community harbingers are involved in fiscal, wages and social protection policies. Culture must be seen as a

protection policies.

Culturally sensitive policies and programs should be encouraged, so as to help make good decisions about inequalities while addressing challenges to social inclusions.

African Cultural Promotions Inc. considered it significantly important to addressing inequality within and among communities through culture and has adopted SDG 10 and its targets as a project through its MUSICULTURE Project and School TALENCULTURE.

Accomplishments

The African Cultural Promotions Inc. has worked to help to build greater recognition and respect for cultures on social concerns to address problems and promote economic values that are imbibed in the fundamental unit of fiscal, wages and social protection policies. Educational programs, academic conferences, public events and cultural celebrations have been carried out to enrich the understanding of the significant need to promote social policies, methodologies and practices to strengthen culture. ACPI offers promotional educational programs for culture and character education that address social inclusion challenges.

Over the years, especially since the development of the 2030 Agenda, ACPI has focused on the following initiatives and programs:

MUSICULTURE: The MUSICULTURE Project is a collection of pictures of promotion of cultural events showcasing different cultures among ethnic groups from across communities. The pictures are reproduced in encyclopedia community exhibits with partnership organizations. The pictures are disseminated as headway images showcasing Leave No One behind Agenda in Communities.

SCHOOLTALENCULTURE: ACPI provides education and cross-cultural exchange program schools in the community on voice auditioning through singing, African cultural sports education and Diplomatic Education. Youth and kids experience cultural education about 2030 Agenda, SDG10 and targets, world culture - especially Africa, America and Caribbean culture - as well as training on creative, vocal and artistic talents. Talented youth and students are provided with education support and certificate.

Culture for SDG10: ACPI provides education, training on economic growth, poverty eradication, social protection through SDG10 and targets, and also advocates for improved cultural tools for increased wages and social protections

Our programs on MUSICULTURE, Culture for SDG10 and School TALENCULTURE has continued to address SDG 10 and its targets using culture as necessary tool for overcoming inequalities and challenges to socio-economic values and norms.

Way forward

Although encouraged by its work and mission, ACPI affirms that the inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wages and social protection policies is of great concern to world's populations based on culture. ACPI feels there is much more work to do to help policymakers see culture as a means of providing unique capacity necessary for communal existence, human sustainable living, and development and socioeconomic sustainability. Economic development, income and

through integrative cultural partnerships across the world. ACPI looks forward to making better use of the cultural information and education in encouraging best practices for overcoming inequalities and social inclusion challenges.

It is our hope that we can better support the goals and accomplishments of the United Nations as we strive to attain the Sustainable Development Goals, with a special focus on the culture-Social inclusions.

As the Commission on Social Development at its 57 Session notes of these challenges, efforts must be geared towards addressing policies with respect to the following issues:

- Cultural Cooperatives should be endorsed by governments, as co-operatives can contribute to social inclusion by implementing effective strategies, sharing knowledge and establishing partnerships with other agents of change
- Cultural technology should be used to promote high labor, fiscal and wage standards
- Integrate culture with developments that could impro· e on fiscal, wages and social protection tendencies.

In conclusion, ACPI posits that the Commission for Social Development 57th Session Bureau should be informed of the need to establish awareness centers in rural communities to ensure adequate outreach and information on the mission of the Commission especially in addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion in communities.

There should be significant measures to promote cultural as a panacea to addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wages and social protection policies.